

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 10-11, and 16-29 are amended herein. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

In paragraph 3 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-10, 15-16, 18-19, 21-24, 27, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Ginzburg. In paragraph 4, the Examiner rejected claims 6 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Ginzburg and further in view of Humann. In paragraph 5, the Examiner rejected claims 11-14, 17, 25-26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Ginzburg and further in view of Murray. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the now-pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish the claimed invention over the cited references. In particular, according to currently amended claim 1, an original data signal is transmitted through an electrical backplane or through the electrical backplane and at least one filter. The original data signal is a binary data signal, and the transfer function property of the electrical backplane or the transfer function property of the combination of the electrical backplane and the at least one filter corresponds to the transfer function property of a binary-to-duobinary converter. The data signal is received after being transmitted through the electrical backplane or through the electrical backplane and the at least one filter, wherein the received data signal is processed as a duobinary data signal.

Thus, in the invention of claim 1, an original data signal is transmitted through an electrical backplane as a binary data signal, but is received as a duobinary data signal due to the effect that the electrical backplane or the combination of the electrical backplane and at least one filter has on the binary data signal. In particular, the electrical backplane itself or the combination of the electrical backplane and the at least one filter effectively functions as a binary-to-duobinary converter.

AAPA contains a general discussion about the transmission of data signals through electrical backplanes, but does not teach or even suggest the transmission of a binary data signal that is converted into a duobinary data signal as a result of the transmission through an electrical backplane.

Ginzburg discloses a transmission system in which binary data signals are converted into duobinary data signals prior to transmission to a receiver. See, e.g., encoder 12 of Fig. 1, which converts pre-coded binary data signals into duobinary data signals prior to filtering and transmission over an unshielded twisted pair, as described, for example, in column 4, lines 42-49. Thus, Ginzburg also does not teach or even suggest the transmission of a binary data signal that is converted into a duobinary data signal as a result of the transmission through an electrical backplane.

Nor do Humann and Murray provide the features of currently amended claim 1 that are missing from AAPA and Ginzburg.

For all these reasons, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. For similar reasons, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 18 and 29 are allowable over the cited references.

Since claims 2-17 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and claims 19-28 depend directly or indirectly from claim 18, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1-29 under Section 103(a) have been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Fees

During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Mendelsohn & Associates, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0782.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time if not submitted with the reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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